Post Graduate Institute of Medical Education and Research (PGIMER), Chandigarh	Sanjay Gandhi Post Graduate Institute of Medical Sciences, Lucknow
Sher-1-Kashmir Institute of Medical Sciences, Soura, Srinagar.	Govt. Arignar Anna Memorial Cancer Hospital, Kancheepuram, Tamil Nadu
Regional Institute of Medical Sciences, Manipur, Imphal	

Popularising Ayurveda

576. SHRI RAJEEV CHANDRASEKHAR: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government's plan to expand and popularize Ayurveda in the country is not up to the expectations of the people;

(b) the Centre's budget allocation for the purpose and actual utilization thereof during the last three years ending 31 st March, 2007, year-wise; and

(c) the reasons for the shortage of Ayurvedic doctors under the CGHS in Delhi and elsewhere and the poor availability of medicines under the scheme?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS): (a) No, Sir.

(b) The budget allocation and utilization for Ayurveda in last three years is as follows:

{Amount in Crores)

Year	Budget Allocation (BE)	Actual utilization & Final Grant
2004-2005	65.29	83.64
2005-2006	107.32	70.73
2006-2007	94.03	82.39

(c) The shortage of Ayurvedic doctors is due to the fact that selection of Ayurvedic doctors being made by the UPSC has been delayed on account of litigation. As regards Ayurvedic medicines, there has been no shortage of medicines. However, if any medicine is not available in any dispensary, the same is provided to patients by purchasing from local chemists appointed for the purpose.

Metal contents in Ayurvedic Medicines

577. SHRIMATI N.P. DURGA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Indian traditional medicines contain more toxic materials and due to this some countries have refrained their people from buying the same;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons for higher toxic content in the Indian traditional medicines;

(c) whether it is also a fact that in spite of mandatory testing started by Government from January, 2006, many medicines contain toxic content; and

(d) if so, how the drug licensing authorities are ensuring compliance with instructions/ rules in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS): (a) and (b) Ayurvedic herbal mineral and metallic formations which are prepared according to the standard operative procedure laid down in the formularies and which have been detoxified in terms of the purification processes laid down in the classical texts are safe and are not hazardous to health. Such medicines are widely used in the country and no adverse reports have been received about them. The regulatory authorities in some countries have issued alerts against certain Ayurvedic products on the grounds that they contain heavy metals in higher limits that permissible in food material. These alerts have been issued on the basis of the standards prescribed in those countries for health food supplements.

(c) and (d) As per the Government orders, it is mandatory to enclose the test report for heavy metal estimation with export consignments of purely herbal Ayurvedic, Siddha or Unani medicine with effect from 1st January, 2006. Exporters have been asked to comply with these orders.

The State Drug Licensing Authorities have been directed to ensure full compliance by all ASU drug manufacturers of the provisions of Rule 161 (1) and (2) of the Drugs and Cosmetics Rules, 1945 relating to displaying on the label of the container or in a leaflet to be inserted in the package of an ASU drugs, the true list of all the ingredients used in the manufacture of the preparations together with the quanity of each of the ingredients incorporated therein.

Government has instructed all States under the provision of Rule 154 (2) of the Drugs and Cosmetics Rules, 1945 to constitute Expert Committees for advising the State Licensing Authority before any manufacturing unit is given a license for the manufacture of any patent and proprietary Ayurveda, Siddha and Unani medicine.

Iron fortification

578. SHRIMATI N.P. DURGA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that iron fortification has not been included in the National Programme;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether it is one of the main reasons for the increased number of anemia cases in the country as per the report of the National Family Health Survey;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(e) what steps his Ministry has taken or proposed to take to provide iron and folic acid through supplementation for all children?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS): (a) to (e) There is no National Programme for fortification including that of iron. However, standards of iron fortification with salt, wheat flour and maida have been made under Prevention of Food Adulteration Act, 1954.